



FUNDAMENTALS

Newsletter for Friends of Irish Studies

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School of Canadian Irish Studies Inaugurated



Ryan Blau, P&L Photography

From left to right: Peter Kruyt, Chair of Concordia's Board of Governors; Michael Kenneally, Principal of Concordia's School of Canadian Irish Studies; the Right Honourable Paul Martin, former Prime Minister of Canada; Judith Woodsworth, Concordia President and Vice-Chancellor; Jean Charest, Premier of Quebec; Brian Gallery, Chair of the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation; and Daniel Johnson, former Premier of Quebec.

The Inauguration of the School of Canadian Irish Studies was held on October 19th at the Mother House chapel of Concordia University. Brian Gallery, Chair of the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation, told the 200 guests that the project had come a long way since its conception several years ago.

"We had no stationery, no office, no trustees and no money," said Gallery, who served as master of ceremonies. "And now, we have more than \$5 million in the bank. It shows you what the Irish can do!"

Canadian Irish Studies programs were created in 2002 in response to the growing number of courses offered since 1992 in more than ten departments in the faculties of Arts and Science, and Fine Arts. The School now offers sixteen courses in a dozen disciplines leading to minor and certificate programs. Enrolment stands at about 700 students.

Michael Kenneally, the School's principal, acknowledged the contributions of professors, staff, external organizations and the wider community.

"The School of Canadian Irish Studies is the product of extraordinary effort, commitment and support from a wide group of people and institutions. It is a model of the kind of successful partnership that can take place between the university, the wider community and governments," Kenneally said.

"Their shared vision was to study, research and teach the rich culture of Ireland and the highly influential role Irish immigrants have played in shaping Canada and, in particular, their contribution to the unique fabric of Quebec society."

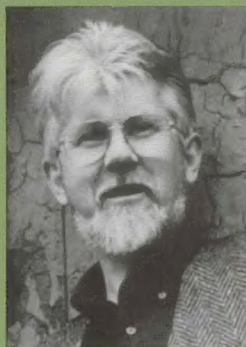
Prominent dignitaries paying tribute to the School and its founders were: Concordia President and Vice-Chancellor Judith Woodsworth, former Prime Minister Paul Martin, former Quebec Premier Daniel Johnson and current Premier Jean Charest, who is an Honorary Patron of the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation.

The evening included a concert of Irish music performed by an ensemble of artists, including vocalists Cathy Richards and Karine St-Pierre.



The Chair, Trustees and Directors of the Foundation wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Gearóid Ó hAllmhuráin Appointed Johnson Chair



Dr. Gearóid Ó hAllmhuráin
Photo credit: Christy McNamara

World-renowned musician, Dr. Gearóid Ó hAllmhuráin, has been appointed the first Johnson Chair in Quebec and Canadian Irish Studies at Concordia. Dr. Ó hAllmhuráin is an acclaimed

music author, lecturer, producer and editor, and holds five world titles in Irish traditional music: as a concertina player, uilleann piper, and as a member of the Kilfenora Céilí Band, the oldest traditional ensemble in Ireland.

As Johnson Chair, Dr. Ó hAllmhuráin is planning to conduct an extensive interdisciplinary project on the soundscape of the Irish in Quebec. Focusing on traditional Irish repertoire, transmission, and performance contexts that mark critical nodal points in the cultural history of the province, his ground-breaking project will broaden our understanding of how the Irish in Quebec preserved their unique sense of identity, place and memory through sound.

The Johnson Chair in Quebec and Canadian Irish Studies is named in honour of the Johnson family, well-known to Quebecers for its years of public service. The research focus of the Chair is on the role played by Quebecers of Irish origin in contributing to the social, cultural, religious and economic evolution of Quebec, becoming, in the process, a model of integration into Quebec society.

The creation of the Chair was made possible by a \$3 million endowment, \$2 million of which was provided by the Government of Quebec through the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation, and \$1 million from the Concordia University Foundation.

New Appointments on Board of Trustees

At the most recent meeting of the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation's Board of Trustees, two new appointments were announced by the Chair, Brian O'Neill Gallery: John Little as Vice-Chair of the Foundation, and Peter Cullen as Honorary Secretary. John Little is an ophthalmologist at the Montreal Children's Hospital, and is associated with several Montreal sports associations, including *Les Canadiens*. He was President of the St. Patrick's Society from 2004-2006.



Dr. John Little



Peter Cullen

Peter Cullen is a partner with Stikeman Elliott in Montreal. He also serves as Chairman of Le Bon Dieu Dans La Rue, Montreal, and as Director of the St. Lawrence Valley Natural History Society, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue.

Maurice Bric is Peter O'Brien Scholar for 2009

Maurice Bric, a senior professor of history at University College Dublin, is the 2009 Peter O'Brien Visiting Scholar at Concordia's School of Canadian Irish Studies. Professor Bric is former Chair of the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences and author of a number of articles and books on Irish and American history as well as on higher education policy in Ireland. His recent book, *Ireland, Philadelphia and the Re-Invention of America, 1760-1800*, won the Irish Historical Research Prize for 2009.

In his capacity as Peter O'Brien Visiting Scholar, Professor Bric recently delivered the eighth Annual Bishop Neil Willard



Professor Maurice Bric

Lecture in Canadian Irish Studies titled *The Green Atlantic: Ireland and America in the Age of Revolutions*.

Concordia International Student Researching Argentina's Irish Diaspora

Patricia de Aquino Prudente is a senior undergraduate student at the University of Sao Paulo (Brazil) and is taking courses during the fall term at the School of Canadian Irish Studies at Concordia University in order to expand her undergraduate research project. For the past three years, she has been developing research on the Irish diaspora in Argentina. Her study focuses on the



Patricia de Aquino Prudente

analysis of nationalist constructions in the letters, editorials and lectures of an Irish diasporic journalist and writer, William Bulfin, during the period in which he was

the editor of *The Southern Cross* (1886-1906), a Catholic and nationalist newspaper directed to the Irish community in Argentina.

Bursary Program Offers Financial Assistance



Dr. Michael Kenneally with Beverley Taugher Rozek, creator of the Taugher Family Bursary

A special area of funding in the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation is the bursary program. Bursaries are awarded to students who need financial assistance to continue their studies or to participate in academic opportunities that they are unable to fund themselves. Bursaries are based on need rather than merit, and the recipients are anonymous.

Several CISF donors have chosen to set up bursaries in honour of family members as a way of celebrating the qualities of a life well-lived. Trustee Ann Soden named the Edna Amy McConkey Soden Bursary in honour of her mother, a synchronized swimmer, nurse, social activist, wife, mother and grandmother, who passed away in 2003. "She never sought the limelight or accolades," Ann said, "She was an inspiration of selflessness to all who knew her."

Beverley Taugher Rozek inaugurated the Taugher Family Bursary in 2006, after hearing about a student in Irish Studies who didn't attend a class outing because she couldn't afford the extra cost. Beverley said that her father, who was very proud of his Irish heritage, would have given his whole-hearted support to the bursary program. "It's not an amount that will change the world," Beverley said, "but it's a little extra to help out students when they need it most."

Further information about bursaries may be obtained by contacting cdnirish@alcor.concordia.ca

Quinns' Annual Donation a Family Affair

Formidable fundraiser Eleanor Quinn, at age 81, is not yet ready to rest on her laurels. As chief organizer of the annual Quinn Family Walk in Montreal's St. Patrick's Day Parade, Eleanor modestly calls her successful fundraising activities "easy". For the past five years, she has been the prime mover and shaker behind the goal of the Quinn family to create an endowment to fund the \$1,000 annual Stephen Dowd Scholarship. The scholarship was inaugurated by Elizabeth Quinn following the death of her son, Stephen Dowd, in 2002. Stephen had been the Parade Director for many years, so it is only fitting that the Quinn family make the parade a focus of their contribution.

Eleanor begins her email campaign after Christmas, encouraging family members

to donate "anything over \$20" to the fund, and join the group walking in the Parade. Over the years, Eleanor has expanded her initial one-person mission to 47 participants from four generations of the Quinn family.

The Quinn family roots go back to County Mayo and a circuitous route took them to Scotland, then to Canada, where they settled in Verdun. Eleanor Quinn says that in her early days, a college education was hard to come by. "A good education is so important today, especially with the economy the way it is," says Eleanor, adding that she is proud to have seen family members graduate from Concordia. She feels very much a part of the Montreal Irish community, and it is her desire to continue the annual donation to the Stephen Dowd Scholarship as a family tradition, though she hopes another family member will carry the torch in the near future!



Maurice, Eleanor and Rose Quinn present their donation to the Stephen Dowd Scholarship fund to Michael Kenneally



Members of the Quinn family walk in the 2009 St. Patrick's Day Parade. Photo courtesy of Eleanor Quinn.

PUBLIC LECTURES

Ann Saddlemyer Lecture



Dr. Claire Connolly

The Second Annual Ann Saddlemyer Lecture in Canadian Irish Studies featured Dr. Claire Connolly, who spoke on 'Micks on the Make' or *Cultural Entrepreneurs? The Irish in Nineteenth-Century London*. Dr. Connolly is Reader in English Literature at Cardiff University where she also manages the publicly-funded Ireland-Wales Research Network.

She has lectured widely in Europe and North America and has been Visiting Associate Professor of Irish Studies and English at Boston College.

Dr. Claudia Kinmonth



Dr. Claudia Kinmonth

As Senior Research Fellow at Buckinghamshire Chilterns University, Dr. Kinmonth completed her PhD on Irish vernacular furniture.

She has lectured, published and broadcast widely.

She was guest curator of Ireland's first exhibition of genre painting: 'Whipping the Herring', at Cork's Crawford Municipal Art Gallery. At Concordia, Dr. Kinmonth recently gave a lecture titled *Through Artists' Eyes: Irish Farmhouse Interiors as Depicted in Nineteenth-Century Paintings*.

St. Patrick's Society Lecture



Fintan O'Toole

The Fourth Annual St. Patrick's Society Lecture featured Fintan O'Toole, one of Ireland's leading political and cultural commentators who delivered a lecture titled

After the Ball, Irish Culture Now.

Fintan O'Toole has been drama critic of *In Dublin* magazine, *The Sunday Tribune*, the *New York Daily News*, and *The Irish Times* and Literary Adviser to the Abbey Theatre. He edited *Magill* magazine, and since 1988 has been a columnist with the *Irish Times*.

Canadian Irish Studies Collaborates with John Molson School of Business



Dr. Jim Kennelly

Dr. Jim Kennelly, the Director of the International Affairs Program and Associate Professor of International Business at Skidmore College was a recent guest lecturer at the David O'Brien Centre for Sustainable Enterprise at Concordia's John Molson School of Business. His topic, presented in collaboration with the School of Canadian Irish Studies, was *Capitalizing on Culture: Competitiveness, Sustainability and Sense of Place in Post-Boom Ireland*. Dr. Kennelly's research interests centre on Ireland, particularly in the areas of sustainable development, cooperative organization, and innovation, entrepreneurship and creativity.

Government of Ireland Selects Concordia for Two Visiting Scholars

The Ireland Canada University Foundation (ICUF) with funding from Ireland's National Lottery and the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs appointed junior Visiting Scholars at six Canadian universities. However, Concordia was selected to receive an additional senior Visiting Scholar to teach Irish language and culture.



Feargal Ó Béarra

Concordia's senior Visiting Scholar, Feargal Ó Béarra, a native of the Cois Fharraige Gaeltacht in the west of Ireland, holds a Doctorate in Old and Middle Irish

language and literature from the National University of Ireland. His doctoral thesis, a critical edition of the 10th century text *Siaburcharpát Con Culainn* (The Phantom Chariot of Cú Chulainn), is due to appear in the Maynooth Medieval Irish Texts series. At Concordia, Dr. Ó Béarra is teaching a course titled *Translating Ireland's Cultural Identities*.



Cliona de Brí

Cliona de Brí has a MA in Drama and Theatre Studies (NUI Galway) and a H-Dip in Broadcasting Communications (Ard Dioplóma i gCumarsáid

Fheidhmeach, NUI Galway). She performed and directed for Múscailt Arts Festival, Flirt FM radio and ran a series of workshops for An Taibhdhearc theatre, Galway. Cliona de Brí is currently teaching a course called *Irish Linguistic and Cultural Traditions*.

The Trustees of the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation extend their sympathy to Ann Soden whose father, James A. Soden, died on November 15, 2009.